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WINCANTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1952

Wincanton,
Somerset.
June, 1953.

To the
Rural District Council of Wincanton

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1952.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	64,540
Population (1952)	....	....	....	....	17,820
Number of inhabited houses (1952)	....	....	....	....	5,398
Rateable Value (31st March, 1952)	....	....	....	....	£80,585
Net Product of Penny Rate (1952)	....	....	....	....	£322/0/0

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

BIRTHS

		Males	Females		
Live Births	Total	144	127	Birth Rate 15.3 per 1000	
	Legitimate	138	119		
	Illegitimate	6	8		
Still Births	Total	7	4	Birth Rate 0.35 per 1000	
	Legitimate	7	4		
	Illegitimate	0	0		

DEATHS

Death from all causes : Total, 242. Males, 121. Females, 121.
Death Rate, 11.3 per 1000.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

(a) from sepsis	....	....	....	nil
(b) from other causes	....	....	....	nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

				Males	Females
Total	....	....	....	3	3
Legitimate	....	....	....	3	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	0	1

Deaths of Infants under one week	....	....	....	....	2
„ „ from one to four weeks (inclusive)	....	....	....	....	2
„ „ from one to six months	....	....	....	....	2
„ „ from six to twelve months	....	....	....	....	0
				Total	6

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	....	....	nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	....	....	....	....	....	nil

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 242, compared with 235 in 1951.

The chief causes of Death were :—

Old Age	....	....	....	27	Cancer	....	....	....	55
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	....	....	....	72	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	....	....	....	49

In all “Causes of Death” :—

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were 56

„ „ „ „ „ 81 „ 85 „ 27

„ „ „ „ „ 86 „ 90 „ 14

„ „ over the age of 90 were 11

A total of 108 or 44.62 per cent of the total Deaths.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	11	0	0
Measles	25	0	0
Whooping Cough	75	0	1
Pneumonia	11	0	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	0	0
Tuberculosis :			
(a) Respiratory	10	0	3
(b) Non-Respiratory	6	0	0

Ophtalmia Neonatorum

No case notified.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Measles and Whooping Cough were again in evidence throughout the District. The type of both diseases was not so mild as usual, but there were no deaths from measles and only one from Whooping Cough (a child aged two months).

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT

A.—Professional Nursing in the Home

- (1) **General.**—There are eight nurses in the district engaged in general district work who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole district.
- (2) **For Infectious Diseases.**—Some of the cases of infectious diseases were removed to Isolation Hospitals, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the district.

B.—Midwives

There are eight certified midwives practising in the district.

C.—Clinics and Treatment Centres

In Wincanton there is one Tuberculosis Dispensary provided and staffed by the County Council.

D.—Hospitals available for the District

- (1) **Tuberculosis.**—One at Wincanton. up to July, 1952.
In July, 1952 the Wincanton Sanatorium was taken over by the Ministry of Health as a Hospital for aged persons suffering from chronic ailments.
- (2) **Fever.**—None.
- (3) **Other.**—(a) There is a Cottage Hospital at Wincanton, known as the “Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases.
(b) There is a Cottage Hospital at Templecombe, known as the “Merthyr Guest Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of Maternity cases.
(c) There is a Public Assistance Institution at Wincanton for the aged and infirm under the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council, and the Regional Hospital Board.

E.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children

The only Institutions for any of the above are the Public Assistance Institution and Rodber House, Wincanton (for boys only), which are under the control of the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council.

F.—Ambulance Facilities

- (1) **For Infectious Cases.**—None in the District.
- (2) **For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.**—There is a British Red Cross Society Ambulance, staffed by British Red Cross personnel, kept at Castle Cary. In addition, Ambulances from Shepton Mallet and Gillingham, Dorset, have been used as occasion requires.

H.—Scabies

No cases have been brought to my notice.

6.—LABORATORY WORK

Examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton, and considerable use of this laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at Messrs. Knight and Sons (Chemists), Wincanton, and is supplied to Practitioners on the National Health Service Prescription Form.

7.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Public Health Department consists of The Chief Sanitary Inspector, two additional Sanitary Inspectors and one pupil, all whole-time Officers, and myself (a part-time Officer).

There are also two Health Visitors in the District.

8.—WATER SUPPLIES

(i) The water supplies of the area have been generally satisfactory in quality. The systems are fully taxed and there were some areas at the higher levels which suffered temporary shortages during peak loads.

(ii) Regular bacteriological examinations have been made of the water supplies with the results set out in the following table :—

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Public 44	10	4	—	48	1	3	—
Private 19	12	—	—	—	—	—	—

(The above Chemical Analyses refer to the following supplies :— Bruton, Castle Cary, Penselwood, Milborne Port, Pitcombe, South Brewham and Templecombe).

Water Supplies from Public Mains :—

Direct to the Houses		By means of Standpipes	
No. of Dwelling Houses	Population (Estimated)	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population
4,745	14,687	32	102

No. of parishes with piped water supply :—

(i) from public mains, 29 ; (ii) from private reservoirs, 2.

No. of parishes without a piped supply of water :—

Nil.

The Public Water Supplies liable to have plumbo-solvent action are South Brewham, Charlton Musgrove and, to a lesser extent, Penselwood. At Charlton Musgrove the water is passed over Magnesite, but the efficiency of this treatment is open to question.

A liming plant is available for use at Penselwood when required. No treatment is undertaken at Brewham.

It has been decided not to adopt Byelaws (Sec. 17 Water Act, 1945). Under these the use of lead pipes is prohibited.

General Observations

The proportion of the population supplied from public supplies is high. The demand for both Domestic and Agricultural use tends to increase, and this, together with the shortages arising, and with certain unsatisfactory private systems, indicates a need for a large increase of supply.

Chlorination. Chlorination of the Penselwood (including Wincanton), Templecombe, and Castle Cary supplies has been maintained throughout the year.

Chlorination of the Bruton supply has been installed and put into operation.

Water supplies from wells :—

No. of Samples taken for Analysis			
Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological
—	2	—	3

No. of wells in which a piped supply was substituted for well water, 6.
 No. of wells closed, 2.
 No. of houses relying on well supplies, 87.

Future Proposals

To meet an estimated demand of 1,320,000 g.p.d., of which 505,000 is agricultural and 209,000 industrial, it is proposed to utilise the following existing sources :—

Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port, Penselwood and Pitcombe, producing 968,000 g.p.d., and a new source from Thornford in the Sherborne Rural District. The proposals include additional reservoirs, mains and pumping facilities, designed to make good deficiencies wherever they have occurred and to link the various separate systems.

The Scheme is under consideration by the Ministry (£303,000).

Population Served by Piped Water Supplies

The following table gives details, by Parish, of houses and estimated population supplied by pipe:—

Parish	Pop. 1931 Census	Total No. of houses	Public supply piped to houses	Pop. 1952 Est.	Public supply standpipe to houses	Pop. 1952 Est.	Private supply piped to houses	Pop. 1952 Est.
Alford ..	102	22	22	75	—	—	—	—
Ansford ..	305	161	158	513	—	—	1	3
Bratton Seymour	98	35	28	84	—	—	7	21
Bruham ..	378	132	119	347	4	10	5	15
Bruton ..	1,553	525	511	1,600	—	—	9	30
Castle Cary ..	1,664	574	558	1,700	—	—	15	46
Charlton								
Horethorne	463	156	113	360	8	24	29	95
Charlton								
Musgrove	377	115	103	303	—	—	9	28
Compton								
Pauncefoot	208	61	25	72	—	—	36	108
Corton Denham	228	70	1	4	—	—	66	201
Cucklington ..	211	68	59	177	—	—	3	10
Henstridge ..	1,040	372	328	981	10	35	27	90
Holton ..	233	76	63	186	—	—	8	24
Horsington ..	611	177	137	470	—	—	19	62
Lovington ..	189	56	56	170	—	—	—	—
Maperton ..	125	37	27	78	—	—	5	15
Milborne Port	1,655	567	560	1,790	—	—	6	20
North Barrow	94	27	27	86	—	—	—	—
North Cadbury	690	212	105	325	—	—	92	270
North Cheriton	178	59	57	158	—	—	2	6
Penselwood ..	285	85	72	216	—	—	4	12
Pitcombe ..	457	116	96	320	—	—	17	60
Queen Camel	472	176	162	483	—	—	2	6
Shepton								
Montague	231	64	45	132	—	—	9	27
South Barrow	86	31	31	90	—	—	—	—
South Cadbury	294	94	3	9	—	—	78	230
Sparkford ..	380	133	128	380	—	—	5	16
Stoke Trister	291	104	96	260	—	—	3	9
Templecombe	871	305	291	966	10	33	3	10
Wincanton ..	2,047	737	736	2,266	—	—	—	—
Yarlington ..	149	51	43	126	—	—	2	6
	15,965	5,398	4,760	14,727	32	102	462	1,420

9.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems :—
Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Henstridge, Milborne Port, Queen Camel, Sparkford and Wincanton.

No. of conversions to Water Carriage System during the year, 38.

Future Proposals

In addition to Templecombe, in respect of which the Engineer has been instructed to prepare a scheme, the villages accepted by the County Council as coming within the first Priority Group are North Cheriton, Sutton Montis and South Barrow.

The estimated costs of the schemes are :—

Templecombe (amended)	....	....	£26,000
North Cheriton	....	....	£8,300
Sutton Montis	....	....	£6,000
South Barrow	....	....	£900

10.—HOUSING

Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority and Ministry :—

LOCAL AUTHORITY

	Received		Approved		Rejected		Under Consideration	
	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses
(a) To 31/12/51	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—
(b) During year	3	3	2	2	1	1	—	—

MINISTRY

	No. Sent		Approved		Rejected		Under Consideration	
	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses
(a) To 31/12/51	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	1
(b) During year	2	2	2	2	—	—	1	1

Average cost per dwelling approved :—£547.

Houses Required :—

(a) to replace those unfit	....	....	....	....	....	400
(b) to abate overcrowding	....	....	....	....	....	nil
(c) where conditions are unsatisfactory, e.g., two families living in same house, but not included in (a) or (b)	....	....	....	....	....	200
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at end of the year	....	....	....	....	....	494
Houses occupied that have been condemned as totally unfit	....	....	....	....	....	3

The unfit houses enumerated in (a) are those judged unfit under the Rural Housing Survey according to the standard agreed at that time. As a result of present housing conditions, this standard has been lowered in practice and this accounts for the smaller number given in (c).

The estimate of the number of houses required must be approximate, as allowance must be made for the repair, by owners, of houses not repairable at a reasonable cost, and for the number of Council Houses occupied by persons working outside the district, some of whom will leave when the general housing situation improves.

The lack of alternative accommodation hinders Statutory action in respect of unfit houses, and labour and materials shortages restrict reconditioning, and the result is a general lowering of standards.

Total No. of houses in the District, 5,398.
 „ „ „ owned by Local Authority, 1272.

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Conversions to flats or Dwellings		Temporary such as Army huts etc.
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority	110	—	71	—	—	—	
Private							
Enterprise	17	—	9	—	5	—	
County Council	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	129	—	80	—	5	—	

No. of Post War Houses erected to 31st December, 1952		Programme for 1953	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
406	70	72	10

(a) No. of unfit houses in the District but on which no formal action has been taken	....	....	....	....	950
(b) No. of houses that have been condemned under the Housing Acts as totally unfit	....	....	....	....	3
(c) No. of houses occupied under :—(a)	....	....	....	....	930
(b)	....	....	....	....	1
No. of houses found overcrowded	....	....	....	....	1

CAMPING SITES

Number of Camping Sites (Permanent)	....	....	....	1
Acreage of Site	....	....	....	4.100
Maximum number allowed per acre (caravans)	....	....	....	7
Estimated number of campers during the year (average)	....	....	....	15

11.—FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

None.

12.—PUBLIC INQUIRIES

None.

13.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

(a) Total number of Registered Dairies	....	....	....	5
(b) Total number of Retailers in the area	....	....	....	5
(c) Number of Supplementary licences issued to dealers whose dairy is outside your area	....	....	....	5

Biological Milk Sampling

No. Taken, 3. Negative Results, 3. Positive Results, Nil.

Ice Cream

No. of premises registered for :—

(a) Manufacture and retail	....	....	....	....	3
(b) Manufacture only	....	....	....	....	Nil
(c) Retail only	....	....	....	....	42

Premises where food is prepared

No. registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	64
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Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Date byelaws came into operation 31/7/50

The premises are subject to routine examination.

So far persuasion has proved the most successful, although threats of prosecution have been necessary to secure results in a few cases.

14.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES

(a) No. in use under Ministry of Food	....	....	....	1
(b) No. in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	....	....	....	—

Total number of animals slaughtered during year under :—

(a) 15,465 ; (b) Nil.

Names of any in use under Ministry of Food :—

South Western Dairies Co., Ltd., Bacon Factory, Bruton.

15.—PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

No. in area :—

(a) Privately owned	....	....	....	....	....	1
(b) Owned by Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	Nil

Estimated average number of bathers daily during season :—
25—50.

Water used for filling pool :—

River Brue—Constant flow.

No purification plant is installed, but water treated with Chloride of Lime and Copper Sulphate at intervals.

This Pool is owned by the Governors of King's School, Bruton.
Samples taken : Nil.

16.—FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	11		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	49		
TOTAL	108	60		

2.—**Cases in which DEFECTS were found**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences : Not separate for sexes	1	1			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)		1		1	
TOTAL	1	2		1	

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
Wearing apparel —Making, etc. Cleaning	234	—	—	—	—	—

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Wincanton,
Somerset.
25th March, 1953.

T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Balsam Gate,
Wincanton.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

The total number of inspections, excluding those by juniors, was 4,167, which included the following :—

Public Health Acts

Camping Sites	....	....	....	....	....	....	53
Drainage, Sewers and Sewage Disposal					....	....	622
Nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	....	225
Refuse and Salvage		....	....	....	....	....	365
Water Supplies	....	....	....	....	....	....	164
Dangerous buildings		28

New Buildings

Byelaws and Town Planning and Building Licensing	1,380
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Housing	359
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Food and Drugs Act

Meat Inspection	325
Food premises	132
Milk and Dairies	20

Slaughter of Animals	4
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Shops	5
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Rodent Control	24
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Petroleum	57
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Factories	60
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Miscellaneous	344
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4,167

SEWERAGE

The general position in regard to sewage disposal has not changed materially. The high cost of repairs must be a cause of serious concern, particularly as it is becoming apparent that a considerable amount of relaying existing sewers is necessary.

The effluents from the Sewage Works at Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port and Sparkford have given satisfactory results on analyses taken by the River Board Inspectors.

No complaint has arisen concerning the effluent of the Henstridge or Wincanton Sewage Works.

Bruton

Consulting Engineers have been appointed to advise generally on the reconstruction of the Sewage Works and the extension of the system to include the Elm and Sunnyhill areas of Pitcombe.

A case of pollution occurred in the River Brue at Bruton arising from the discharge of the Gasworks effluent. This was abated when satisfactory arrangements were made for the disposal of gas liquor.

No other new cases of pollution have occurred.

Castle Cary

A short length of defective sewer in the Triangle has been relaid and investigations into the infiltration in the Fore Street area have commenced, with the aim of dealing with this in 1953.

Sparkford

There have been two repetitions of the sewer surcharge in Sparkford Street, and it has been decided to continue investigations, although the hope of avoiding the provision of a new sewer has lessened.

Templecombe

The river pollution has continued.

The Council, not being satisfied with the progress made, have cancelled the instructions given to a Consulting Engineer in 1945 to prepare a Sewerage Scheme and, in August, appointed Messrs. Harvey, McGill and Hayes.

A short length of sewer in the High Street has been relaid.

Wincanton

A disturbing feature has been the development of cracks in the Engine House and in the channels of the tanks. These are being

carefully watched, and there is nothing so far to denote any serious settlement.

The main sewer between Cemetery Lane and Hawkers Bridge surcharges in times of heavy rain—probably as a result of the access of road and surface water. This foreshadows a costly scheme of sewer relaying.

HOUSING

Council Houses

The erection of 110 houses in the year, completing the 1950 and 1951 programmes, and including 24 of the 1952 programme, must be regarded as highly satisfactory.

It is well to reflect, however, that a number of these must be regarded as replacements rather than additional housing, and the number on the Waiting List remains high at 494.

If the large programme of Local Authority building is to be eased every encouragement must be given to individuals to build their own houses. The high cost of building is causing many potential house builders to halt, and the difficulties of site acquisition at reasonable prices is another important deterrent.

The following table gives details of the houses completed during 1952 :—

	Non-Traditional	TRADITIONAL												Total	Pri- vate Enter- prise	Som- erset C.C.		
		Cor- nish Units	Old People's Bunga- lows		Fl'ts	PARLOUR-TYPE HOUSES											Non- Par- lour	
			S.S. 6	S.S. 7		F.1	C.1	U.P. 3	U.P. 4	U.P. 5	P.4	Q.	R.					S.	N.P.4
Bruham ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Bruton ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	2	—	14	—	1		
Castle Cary	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	8	—	—	—	—	16	—	—		
Charlton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Horethorne	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Charlton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Musgrove	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—		
Corton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Denham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Henstridge	30	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	1	1		
Milborne Port	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—		
North	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Cadbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—		
Queen Camel	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—		
South Barrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
South	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Cadbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Sparkford ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—		
Stoke Trister	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Templecombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Wincanton	—	6	12	8	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	30	4	—		
	44	6	12	8	4	4	4	4	8	8	4	2	2	110	17	2		

Requisitioning

The number of properties, exclusive of ex-W.D. huts, under requisition has decreased from 38 at the beginning to 26 at the end of the year. It is intended that all shall be released by the end of 1954.

Licences

The number of unfit houses under licence for temporary occupation at the end of the year was 34.

Housing Survey

No further progress has been made with the Housing Survey. Routine inspections continue, but the collection of all the survey data would be an embarrassment, rather than a help, until a larger programme of repair and reconditioning can be undertaken.

Overcrowding

Cases outstanding, 1st January, 1952	....	....	....	7
Cases discovered during 1952	....	....	....	1
				<hr/> 8
Cases abated during 1952	....	....	....	2
				<hr/> 6
Cases outstanding, 31st December, 1952		....	....	<hr/>

Movable Dwellings

Eight new licences have been issued.
Three licences have been renewed.

Notifiable Disease

Disinfection has been carried out in seven cases.

Arrangements have been made to take over the Steam Disinfector at the Verrington Hospital, Wincanton.

The apparatus has been overhauled and will be put into operation early in 1953.

STATUTORY AND INFORMAL ACTION

In addition to the 39 Informal Notices outstanding at the beginning of the year, 73 have been served. Of the total of 112, 5 have been withdrawn, 5 followed up by Statutory action, and 60 complied with.

Thirteen Statutory Notices have been served, 5 under the Public Health Act and 8 under the Housing Acts. The 5 served under the Public Health Act, together with 3 outstanding at the beginning of the year, have been complied with. Five of those served under the Housing Acts have been complied with.

The following is a summary of the results obtained from compliance with Informal and Statutory Notices :—

Remedied

Defective Sewers and Drains	....	....	....	....	25
Overflowing and leaking Cesspools	....	....	....	....	3
Defective, insanitary or insufficient closets :—					
(a) at dwellings	....	....	....	....	12
(b) at factories	....	....	....	....	1
(c) at inns	....	....	....	....	1
Dangerous or dilapidated premises	....	....	....	....	9
Verminous premises	....	....	....	....	1
Miscellaneous nuisances	....	....	....	....	19
Contraventions—Food and Drugs Act				....	16
Shops Act	....	....	....	....	2
Milk and Dairies Regulations				....	3
Meat Regulations	....	....	....	....	1
Rodent Infestations cleared	....	....	....	....	4

Other Results

Public Health Act—Houses Repaired	....	....	....	6
Housing Acts—Houses made Fit	....	....	....	17
Houses Repaired	....	....	....	4
Houses Demolished	....	....	....	5
Closing Orders made	....	....	....	3
Houses Lost by Conversion	....	....	....	3
				<hr/> 135 <hr/>

HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE

The House Refuse and Salvage Scheme continues to operate satisfactorily by direct labour. Two ten cubic yard side-loading Dennis vehicles are used.

Weekly collections are made in Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port and Wincanton, involving an estimated population of 7,000.

The remainder of the District, with the exception of a few outlying and isolated premises, is covered each fortnight.

Charges are made for the collection of Trade Refuse.

The two refuse dumps used are those at Wincanton and Bowden.

The most important feature of the year was the inevitable collapse of the waste paper market. In these circumstances a decline of only £516 in paper receipts must be considered excellent. This was partly offset by increases in the amounts of scrap iron and textiles.

The continued support of the public to the Salvage Scheme is most gratifying.

The following table gives the salvage sales for the past three years :—

	Tons			Value		
	1952	1951	1950	1952	1951	1950
Paper	129.3	124.1	137.39	1369.5	1885.25	700.55
Ferrous Metals	44.9	14.1	11.90	182.3	47.00	19.75
Non-Ferrous Metals	—	9.1	—	—	32.10	—
Textiles	9.9	4.55	3.23	229.5	134.25	58.93
Bones	0.3	1.15	1.95	1.8	6.30	11.28
	184.4	153.00	154.47	1783.1	2104.90	790.51

SANITARY SURVEYS

Closet Accommodation

There were 38 conversions from earth to water closets during the year.

Public Conveniences

One new Public Convenience at Milborne Port has been completed, making a total of five, the others being situated at Bruton, Castle Cary and Wincanton (South Street and Churchfield).

FOOD INSPECTION

Meat

All carcasses of pigs slaughtered at the Bruton Bacon Factory continue to be examined.

The results are set out in the following table :—

	Sheep and Lambs	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	15,465
No. Inspected					15,464½
All diseases except Tuberculosis: Whole carcasses condemned					25
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned					*2,200
Per cent of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis					*14.2
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned					31
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned					*930
Per cent of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis					*6

*These figures are to a small extent estimated as it is impracticable to identify every organ with the carcase.

Full records are kept of the incidence of disease in the various organs, etc.

The following table gives the principal details :—

	Tuberculosis	Other diseases
Carcases	31	25
Heads	882	39
Plucks	114	296
Livers	—	363
Lungs	—	1262
Miscellaneous	29	685

Miscellaneous Foods

The following table gives particulars of the other meat and foods condemned :—

At Butchers' Shops:—

Home-killed :

Pork—½ head and 1 neck

Pork Brawn—8½ lbs.

Pressed Pork and Beef—4½ lbs.

Pork fat—8½ lbs.

Beef—338½ lbs.

Imported :

Pork Brawn—5 lbs.

Pork Luncheon Meat—

4½ lbs.

Tinned Foods :—

906 lbs. have been condemned and destroyed.

Other Foods condemned included :—

6 lbs. Gorgonzola Cheese
6 lbs. Tinned Ox Tongue
34 lbs. Tinned Smoked Bacon

FOOD POISONING

There have been no food poisoning outbreaks throughout the year.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

One case only has been brought to my notice—in January.

This case was fully investigated and it was found that sewage or sewage effluent discharged to a ditch or stream to which the affected animal had access.

RODENT CONTROL

No charge is made for operations at dwellings.

Charges, based on the actual cost of operations, continue to be made in respect of business premises.

Co-operation is still maintained with the County Agricultural Executive Committee as to treatments at farm premises.

An entirely new rodenticide has been introduced during the year under the name of Warfarin. This is now in general use, with Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic and A.N.T.U. used in the limited number of cases where the use of Warfarin is impracticable.

The sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are all subject to regular treatment.

The summary of operations is given in the following table :—

	Class of Property			
	L.A.	D.Hs.	Bus.	Agric.
Prevalence of rats and/or mice	6	88	17	10
Number infested by :—				
Major	6	40	13	10
Minor	—	36	4	—
Mice only	—	12	—	—
Number of properties inspected	8	94	25	11
Number of treatments carried out	6	88	17	10

Neither properties inspected in general surveys around infested properties, nor properties retreated, are included.

BYELAWS AND TOWN PLANNING

Byelaws

The following tables summarize the action taken during the year:—

In abeyance at 31st December, 1951	....	....	13	
New applications	....	....	194	
			—	207
Approved	....	....	184	
Refused	....	....	8	
Withdrawn	....	....	6	
			—	198
In abeyance at 31st December, 1952	....	....		9

Infringements:—

Relating to lack of notices, etc.	....	....	....	20
No. which also included defects	....	....	....	5

Action taken in addition to the usual warning :—

Defective work corrected	....	....	....	3
Action incomplete	....	....	....	1
No further action	....	....	....	16

Town Planning

	B./Fd. 1st Jan. 1952	New Appli- cations	Total	No. Ap- proved	No. Re- fused	No. With- drawn	Not Yet Cat.	In- Com- plete	No. Deci- sion
Cat. A	10	60	70	63	1	2			4
Cat. B	28	87	115	80	7	3			25
Cat. C	4	3	7	6	1	—			—
Cat. D	—	18	18	13	—	—			5
Others	—	13	13	—	—	—	13		—
	42	181	223	162	9	5	13		34

Infringements :—

Twenty-two cases were reported during the year.

BUILDING LICENSING

The licensing "ceiling" for the year was £14,978.

The following table summarizes the action taken :—

Applications brought forward, 1st January, 1952	....	39	
Applications received	....	87	
		—	126
No. of licences issued :—			
New houses	....	19	
Additional Units	....	4	
Housing Repairs	....	31	
By arrangement with other District (new house)		1	
Licences dealt with other than by issue :—			
Sent to Ministry of Works	....	20	
Refused	....	1	
Withdrawn	....	24	
		—	100
Carried forward to 1st January, 1953 :—			
Applications to build new houses	....	15	
Applications for repairs, etc.	....	11	
		—	26
			—

One case, dealing with a shop built without licence in 1950, was referred to the Ministry of Works.

On prosecution, the Owner was fined £500 and the Builder £50, plus costs.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. G. GRAY

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